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8 April 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Inter-Agency Views on NIE-60: Civil Defense in the USSR

BACKGROUND

1. This estimate was requested by the State Department Policy Planning Staff. The basic study was prepared by O/SI, and represents the first comprehensive intelligence estimate on Soviet civil defense prepared in the US Government.

SUBSTANCE

2. The O/NE draft was accepted with only minor changes by the IAC agencies. The chief discussion arose over whether the USSR was making specific preparations against atomic attack (paragraph 13). It was concluded that the USSR was doing so as part of its broader civil defense program.

3. Subsequent to the coordination meeting, the Agency representatives agreed to modify the last sentence on page 9 of the present draft on the grounds that while there is probably not much popular anxiety in the USSR over the consequences of atomic bombing, there is apparently little popular anxiety in the US either. Therefore the last half of the sentence was rewritten to read: "...and there is apparently little popular anxiety over the consequences of atomic bombing." It is planned to insert this change in the published version.

4. So far as this Office knows, no other points of major importance will be raised.

SHERMAN KENT
Assistant Director
National Estimates

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